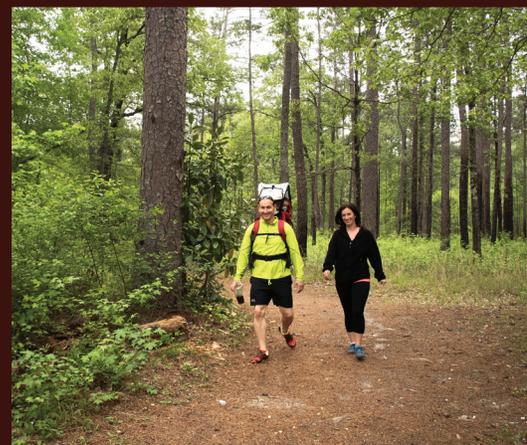




Photo courtesy of Laura Meeks

# North Carolina Trails **ANNUAL REPORT** 2019-2020



division of parks and recreation

# NC TRAILS



NC DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL AND  
CULTURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Dwayne Patterson, Director

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
Roy Cooper, Governor | D. Reid Wilson, Secretary



Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area

# Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction ..... 1
- 2.0 Trails Have Incredible Value ..... 2
- 3.0 Trails in the Pandemic ..... 3
- 4.0 State Trails ..... 4
- 5.0 2019–2020 Actions for Great Trails in North Carolina ..... 8
- 6.0 2020 State Parks Partnership with Conservation Corp of NC ..... 10
- 7.0 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) ..... 11
  - T-1 *Table:* 2020 RTP Grant Awards ..... 12



*Bridle trail at William B. Umstead State Park*



*Mountain Biking at Medoc Mountain State Park*

Each year, a trails report is submitted to outline trail needs, describe additions to the State Trails System and summarize importance of trails in the system. This report is composed by the NC Trails Program for the Secretary of DNCR in accordance with General Statute 143B-135.102.

The North Carolina Trails Program originated in 1973 with the North Carolina Trails System Act and is dedicated to helping citizens, organizations, and agencies plan, develop, and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding to paddle trails and off-road vehicle trails.

The staff of the Trails Program works to enable volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to develop trail plans, preserve land corridors for trails, and manage trails for all trail users. Trails program staff provides technical assistance, administers federal Recreational Trails Program grants, and develops successful partnerships with local conservation and recreation advocates, including town, city and county governments.

## 2.0 Trails Have Incredible Value



*Cliffs of the Neuse State Park*

### ■ Trails Boost Local Economies

In North Carolina, regional and statewide trails directly contribute tens of millions of dollars to local businesses including retail shops, hotels and restaurants as well as provide jobs for local residents. Recent research from the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE, 2018) has shown that the American Tobacco Trail (a 22-mile trail in the Triangle area) contributes \$5.7M to the local economy annually, supports 78 jobs, and generates \$2.2M annually in labor income.

The conservation- and recreation-based tourism industry preserves natural resources and increases the quality of life in a community. As its local textile industry floundered, Elkin, N.C. reinvented itself as a trail town—hosting both the Mountains-to-Sea and Yadkin River State Trails. New trails-related businesses have rejuvenated the economy in and around the town. Elkin now hosts N.C. Trail Days, which in turn provides a boost to tourism.

Regional trails have been shown to increase property values for homes located near the trail. According to the National Association of Home Builders, trails are the most desired community amenity that homeowners seek when buying a home.

### ■ Trails Preserve North Carolina's Rural Landscape

In 1990, the population of North Carolina was 6.6 million; by 2020 that number has reached approximately 10.5 million. Every new person that enters our state needs land for their home, school and workplace. We continue to open space to accommodate our increasing population. At the same time, more and more people live and work in our cities and rarely experience the natural beauty of our state. Urban trails serve to preserve open space and are available to people from all walks of life.

### ■ Trails Protect the Environment

Surface runoff from our roads and lawns is one of the leading causes of pollution in our drinking water. The rapid development of land exacerbates this problem by making the land unable to trap and filter pollutants. Protected natural corridors for regional trails and greenways can filter pollutants from runoff. Protecting land, especially near our rivers and streams, is a voluntary, cost-effective way to make our drinking water sources cleaner and reduce the cost of water treatment.

Protected corridors also serve as “highways” of habitat for many wildlife species. This is increasingly essential as our landscape is fragmented through development. Those trails that are planned to function as alternative transportation corridors also serve to reduce vehicle emissions and decrease traffic congestion.

### ■ Trails Promote Healthy Living

Hiking, biking, and walking are available to people from all economic levels and have been shown to combat diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and obesity. Hiking and walking are consistently ranked as a top recreational activity nationally. If trails are available, people will use them. One study has shown that for every dollar spent in trail development, \$3 are saved in health care costs. Also important is the increase in quality of life for people who continue to seek more time in a natural environment.

## 3.0 Trails during the Pandemic



*Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, Clayton, NC*

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic swiftly disrupted the lives of everyone in the nation. The citizens of North Carolina certainly felt a variety of impacts on their lives that caused a great deal of stress. Many forms of stress suddenly occurred for individuals and families related to unemployment, risk of illness, remote learning, working from home and general uncertainty of when life may return to some semblance of normalcy. In addition, many frontline workers and other employees cannot work from home and had to face the daily threat of exposure. While dealing with these stresses, many healthy exercise and recreational outlets like gyms and health clubs were no longer an option. It was clear to the field staff of our state parks that an abundance of people discovered our parks and trails were a relatively safe and healthy option for exercising and recreating. Record-setting increases in visitation and concern for properly protecting staff and visitors resulted in some parks being closed temporarily beginning in mid-March of 2020.

Many parks were closed for nearly six weeks to adopt new protocols to keep state park staff and visitors as safe as possible. Parks reopened once protective equipment and procedures were identified to minimize risk of exposure to visitors and staff. On May 9th, 2020, closed parks were opened again, and it was clear that this was a welcome outlet for many in our state. From May 9 to June 30, 2020, statewide visitation was up 3 percent while many parks showed dramatic spikes in visitation when their gates reopened. Crowders Mountain and Eno River State Parks were up 33 percent and 89 percent, respectively, in May and June compared to 2019 visitation. These two parks already have high visitation, but some lesser visited parks showed a dramatic visitation increase in the same time frame. Carvers Creek, Mayo River, Raven Rock, and Mount Mitchell state parks were up 116, 197, 58 and 60 percent, respectively when they reopened.

Parks and green spaces provided some much-needed relief mentally, physically, and emotionally. The outdoors became a safe space for exercise with closures of gyms, yoga studios and other places North Carolinians normally might go. Our state parks offer open spaces, over 600 miles of trails to explore as well as many scenic overlooks and destinations. Even with the green spaces we have and miles of trail we offer, it was apparent that there is an appetite for even more opportunity for exercise and stress relief in the outdoors. Parks and trails at many of the highly visited parks became busy with visitors eager to explore while trying to remain socially distant. The importance of trails is widely accepted but, during the pandemic, it became clear they provide a much-needed avenue to help the public ease these new stresses introduced to their lives.

The surge in visitation and anecdotal observations by park staff demonstrate how the state park trails system provided an incredible resource for recreation and an exercise outlet for citizens of N.C. during the pandemic. The increased demand has certainly resulted in even more heavy usage on a trail system that is already stressed and in need of constant maintenance. Increased use highlighted the need in maintaining and improving the existing trail system while looking for options to expand a system that is near capacity. The N.C. Trails Program is actively pursuing a multi-year strategy to redesign each state park trail system into a sustainable trail system that is more resilient and cost-effective to manage to handle ever-increasing demand on these recreational resources.

## 4.0 State Trails



*Mountains-to-Sea State Trail at Pilot Mountain State Park*



*Yadkin River State Trail*

Each state trail is a unit of the state parks system and must be authorized by the General Assembly. When any new state trail is added to the system, the Division of Parks and Recreation (Division) engages in a planning process, including a feasibility study for the new trail. Effective planning is essential to determine a corridor for the trail and identify potential partners. Planning includes extensive data collection, outreach to potential partners, public input, and mapping of the trail corridor.

State trails are comprised of multiple connected sections. Each of these sections is sponsored by a governmental agency or private landowner, which is often a land conservancy. These section sponsors build, maintain, and manage their segment of trail and maintain authority on lands under their jurisdiction. The Division works hard to inform, coordinate, and support these partners.

While a state trail is authorized by the General Assembly and the Division undertakes planning to determine the trail corridor, the trail does not officially become a state trail until constructed and designated by the Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. All designation applications are evaluated for approval by Division staff and the North Carolina Trails Committee.

Along with typical challenges like weather, the pandemic affected progress on state trails. Volunteer workdays were cancelled and, when they resumed, they drew far fewer workers than usual. Guided hikes, like the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail's birthday hikes, were cancelled. However, it was clear that visitation increased dramatically at outdoor recreation venues across the state in 2020. This was due to residents of North Carolina looking for an outlet to be able to get outdoors while the nation and state were in lockdown. Many of these visitors were first-time users of sites and facilities and have greatly increased the numbers of people who will continue to look to the state trails as a means of connecting with nature.

Substantial trail planning efforts were undertaken in 2020. In addition to planning for individual state trails, a "toolbox" was developed for planning and constructing state trails to assist state trail partners. New trail was designated in Stone Mountain State Park. Segments of the Fonta Flora, Hickory Nut Gorge and Deep River State Trails are in active construction. Construction is poised to begin on the first segment of the Wilderness Gateway State Trail in 2021.

The Division partnered with NCDOT in their Great Trails State planning effort to ensure that State Trails would be included in the plan—either as destinations or spine routes. Adoption of this plan will facilitate many aspects of planning and construction of the Division's state trails in the future.

Partnerships are essential to enable the Division to plan and coordinate over 2,300 miles of planned and constructed state trails, throughout 100 counties that span the state.

## 4.0 State Trails



Sign dedication on the DRST



Completed segment of the FFST



Paddling the FBST

### Deep River State Trail (DRST)

Authorized in 2007, the DRST is both a land trail and a blueway, or paddle trail, which will extend from Jamestown in Guilford County to Moncure in Chatham County. The blueway will require access to the river every 5 to 10 miles along the river. The trail will require the accessed land to be owned or a permanent easement granted to a governmental agency or land conservancy. This land may be areas just large enough for a paddle access without a land connection between them.

There are 4.35 miles of designated trail for the DRST. There is a very active task force working on the Randolph County portion. They have received grants to continue the trail and to begin the blueway in Randolph County. In 2020, they designed and produced new signage and a brochure for the trail within their county.

Much of the planned route for the DRT trail portion in Randolph, Moore and Chatham Counties has been included as a spine route in the draft of NCDOT's Great Trails State Plan. This will facilitate partnering with NCDOT to continue extending the trail eastward. In 2018, the last segment of the MST between Clingman's Dome and Stone Mountain State Park was completed, designated and dedicated. Most of the remaining trail corridor will need to be established through land purchase or easements. The MST has a very supportive Friends organization that organizes most of the maintenance and trail construction along the planned route. It has been recognized nationally as a superior long trail.

### Fonta Flora State Trail (FFST)

Authorized in 2015, the FFST will connect Morganton to Asheville with a dual use trail. Included in the trail is a loop around Lake James. The trail will traverse Lake James State Park, part of Pisgah National Forest, and Fonta Flora County Park in Burke County. It will connect with the Overmountain Victory Trail, Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, Old Fort and Black Mountain. Currently, there are over 18 miles of trail designated as part of the FFST. Much of the FFST through Lake James State Park, approximately 7 miles, has been constructed. The Division received a grant to construct more of the trail south of the park's Visitor Center. That work will begin in 2021. The Division is working to complete the more challenging segments of the FFST through the park.

The Friends of Fonta Flora State Trail was chartered in 2020. They are actively working to extend the trail, especially in the Old Fort area. Several tracts in the Old Fort area were purchased using the Connect NC bond. These will facilitate trail connections and the development of a trailhead.

### French Broad River State Trail (FBST)

The FBST was established in 1978 on the third oldest river in the world. The 117-mile blueway flows north from Rosman, N.C. to the Tennessee border, through Buncombe (including the heart of western North Carolina's largest city, Asheville), Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties. Multiple partner organizations maintain access sites along the length of the blueway. The Division has continued to partner with NCDOT to minimize impacts of road and bridge construction on the blueway. Riverlink is becoming a major partner for the FBST, especially in engaging volunteers. The French Broad River State Trail is complete, with all 117 miles have been designated.

## 4.O State Trails

### Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail (HGST)

The HGST was authorized in 2017. Much of 2020 was spent actively planning for this trail. Stakeholders and the public were engaged — both in person, then virtually due to the pandemic. There was a universally positive response to plans for the trail from both the stakeholders and the public. Engaging the public virtually led to a robust survey response.

Conserving Carolinas is the major partner for the HGST. The trail is planned to be approximately 50 miles long. The planning process will be complete in 2021 and the Division will start accepting designation applications for trail segments. Currently, there are over 17 miles of trail completed within the planning corridor. The trail will offer beautiful vistas of the Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure.



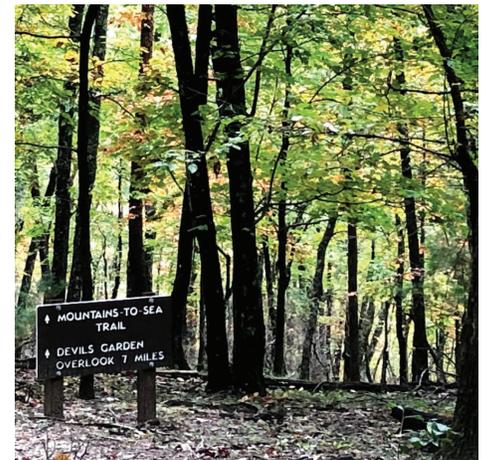
Trombatore Trail — a future segment of HGST

### Mountains-To-Sea State Trail (MST)

The MST is North Carolina's flagship state trail. When completed, it will stretch from Clingman's Dome on the Tennessee border to the Atlantic Ocean at Jockeys Ridge State Park. It will offer major loops in the Piedmont that incorporate Winston-Salem and Hanging Rock State Park. The trail will also stretch through the southern coastal plain, including a path along the Neuse River and the Coastal Crescent Route through Sampson, Cumberland, Bladen, Pender, and Onslow Counties.

The Division has undertaken a regional planning study in the southeastern part of North Carolina. This included the Coastal Crescent Route of the MST. The Friends of the MST were one of the major stakeholders in this effort.

In 2020, 11.6 miles of the MST were designated in Stone Mountain State Park. The new trail that was constructed, enabling the entire designation, was accomplished through a partnership with the Elkin Valley Trails Association.



MST in Stone Mountain State Park

### Northern Peaks State Trail (NPST)

Authorized in 2019, the NPST will reach approximately 40 miles from Boone in Watauga County to Mount Jefferson in Ashe County. Due to the delicate ecosystems along the trail route, it will be restricted to only hiking. The trail will cross through Elk Knob State Park, which will likely host the first constructed segments of the trail. Construction of those segments will proceed once the appropriate environmental review has been completed and when adequate funding is obtained. The Division, in partnership with Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, continue to plan and promote this trail.

### Overmountain Victory State Trail (OVST)

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail stretches roughly 330 miles from its southern terminus in South Carolina through North Carolina and into Tennessee and Virginia. It follows the paths that the patriot militia took as they mustered to fight the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. This battle proved to be pivotal in the Revolutionary War.

The Overmountain Victory State Trail will follow 225 miles of the planned route of the National Historic Trail that passes through North Carolina. The Division will work with the National Park Service, Overmountain Victory Trail Association, county and municipal governments and local sponsors on the development of the trail.



NPST

## 4.O State Trails



*Future vista on the WGST*



*Donnaha Access on the YRST*

### **Wilderness Gateway State Trail (WGST)**

The WGST will meander through Catawba and Burke counties and along the border of Rutherford and McDowell counties. Part of this trail will include a paddle trail in Catawba County. The planned trail will connect Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail and South Mountains State Park with the towns of Valdese and Hickory. Part of the trail will follow the same route as the Overmountain Victory State Trail.

In 2020, the Division completed the master planning process for WGST. This included gathering public input through several public information sessions and a survey. The planning corridor for the WGST is approximately 150 miles long and includes a 34-mile blueway (paddle trail) on the Henry Fork and Jacob Fork Rivers. Foothills Land Conservancy (FLC) is a major partner in the effort and has assisted the Division in acquiring land that will be needed for paddle accesses on the blueway portion. In addition, FLC received a grant to construct the first portion of the trail. Design and construction is expected start in 2021.

### **Yadkin River State Trail (YRST)**

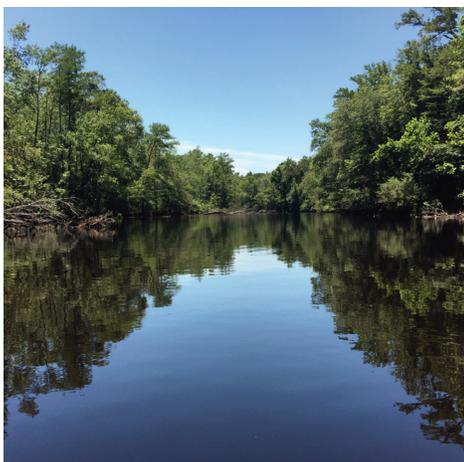
The YRST was established in 1985. The blueway extends for 130 miles through Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Forsyth, Davie, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, and Montgomery counties.

In 2020, the Division received a grant to partner with the Yadkin Riverkeeper to update the mapping of the trail and signage along the river. Additionally, this project will evaluate each of the paddle accesses along the state trail.

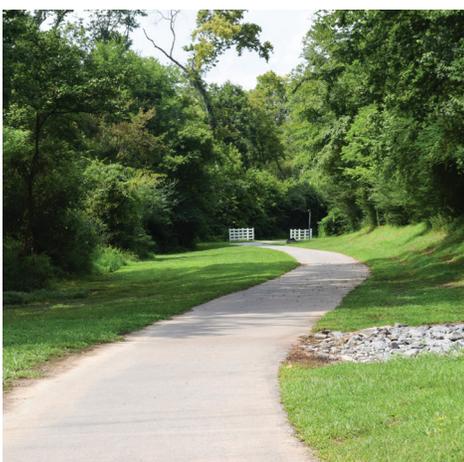
## 5.0 2019-2020 Actions for Great Trails in NC



Catawba River Greenway, Morganton, NC



Lumber River State Park



Clayton Riverwalk Greenway – MST

### Support Trail Development

- **State Transportation Funding:** G.S. 136-189.11(d)(3)c prohibits the use of state funds for independent bicycle and pedestrian projects, even as a match for federal funds. This provision significantly hinders the development of greenways, particularly in rural and underserved areas. This prohibition should be evaluated to determine if it continues to be in the best interests of the citizens of North Carolina.
- **Additional State Funding for a Trail Grant Program:** The NC Trails Program continues to receive more than twice as many applications for trail and greenway funding as the federal Recreational Trails Program grants is able to fund. Additional funding to supplement federal funding would facilitate and expedite completion of trails and greenways.
- **The Adopt-a-Trail Program** (G.S. 143B-135.112) was previously funded to provide small trail grants to communities and non-profits, but funding was discontinued in 2014. Additional funding would foster opportunities to fund trail projects beyond the federal Recreational Trails Program. This funding could be administered through the NC Trails Program and utilize the structure of the Adopt-a-Trail program or create a new trails grant program for the state.

### Southeastern NC Council of Governments (COG) Regional Trails Plan

The NC Trails Program and the NC state parks planning team is completing a significant regional trail planning effort in southeastern North Carolina. The areas studied include the Lumber River, Cape Fear, Mid-Carolina, and Eastern Carolina councils of governments (COG). The advisory group will include representatives from each of the COGs, trail organizations, relevant State agencies, and local implementation partners (such as MPOs and land trusts). The primary role of the advisory group is to provide input and feedback to the overall regional trail network and priorities for implementation. The planning effort was funded by utilizing Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds.

### Expand Existing State Trails

- **State Trails Coalition:** The Division should identify the primary partner for each of the state trails. These partners promote the trail, recruit volunteers, and frequently provide maintenance and management of the trail. Increased communication and cooperation with these organizations should identify mutual goals and additional strategies to advance each of the state trails.
- **Strategic Planning:** The NC Trails Program should continue to partner with NCDOT's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation to identify priority corridors for state and regional trails in a strategic plan for a statewide network of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations that will link county seats, state parks, state trails, community colleges, and state/national forests. This plan should address criteria for including pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on all non-interstate highway bridge replacements.

## 5.0 2019-2020 Actions for Great Trails in NC



Neuse River Greenway



Deep River State Trail

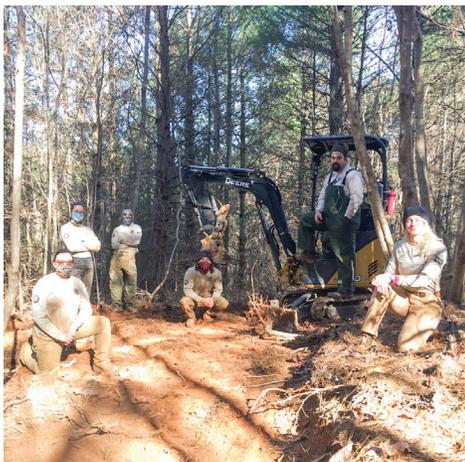
- The Division partnered with NCDOT in their Great Trails State planning effort to ensure that State Parks and State Trails would be included in the plan—either as destinations or spine routes. The draft of the Great Trails State plan connects most state parks to the network. In addition, some of the spine routes are overlaid on planned State Trail routes, when appropriate. The Great Trails State network is planned as a system of multiuse trails. A multiuse path surface is inappropriate for specific state trails, such as the Northern Peaks State Trail. In those cases, the spine network will connect to trailheads. Adoption of DOT’s Great Trails State plan will facilitate many aspects of planning and construction of state trails in the future.
- **Deep River State Trail Plan:** In 2021, the Division launched the master planning process for the Deep River State Trail. It will identify potential blueway access sites and a corridor for the trail on land. Stakeholder and public outreach will be a crucial part of the process.
- **Hickory Nut State Trail Master Plan:** Much of 2020 was spent developing a master plan for Hickory Nut Gorge State Trail. Stakeholders and the public were engaged—both in person, then virtually due to the pandemic. There was a universally positive response from both the stakeholders and the public. The trail is proposed to be approximately 50 miles long connecting Lake Lure, Chimney Rock State Park, Florence Nature Preserve, and Buffalo Creek Park.
- **Neuse River Greenway:** The NC Trails Program and N.C. state parks planning group will continue to coordinate with NC DOT to evaluate plans for the Neuse River Greenway multiuse trail. The trail will ultimately create an alternative travel corridor for cyclists and pedestrians as they commute and recreate between Raleigh and Carteret County. Coordination with NCDOT to incorporate design for this multimodal travel alternative concurrent with widening projects will provide the lowest-cost option for constructing a long-distance greenway system for the citizens of North Carolina. This greenway system, when complete, would be part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail and create an exceptional recreational destination for eastern North Carolina.

### Provide trails-related education and technical assistance throughout North Carolina

- **Information for Elected Officials:** The NC Trails Program should offer to coordinate a presentation or panel on trails and greenways for the Association of County Commissioners annual conference and other appropriate venues.
- **Technical Assistance and Education:** The NC Trails Summit was held in January of 2019 and included presentations on sustainable trail design, environmental permitting requirements, and creative trail solutions. The audience included NC state parks staff and representatives from local municipalities and non-profit organizations. The NC Trails Program should continue to provide technical assistance for trail design, maintenance, and sustainability to local communities and state parks by conducting or sponsoring one or more workshops or webinars for trail advocates and trail builders.

## 6.0

# 2019-2020 State Parks Partnership with Conservation Corp of NC (CCNC)



CCNC at Lake James State Park

In the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation partnered with the Conservation Corps of North Carolina (CCNC) to create sustainable trails while providing employment and on-the-job training to young adults. The NC Trails Program's Regional Trail Specialists provided expert trail design and trained the CCNC crews in sustainable trail construction techniques. This collaboration resulted in low-cost trail construction, trail maintenance, corridor clearing and downed tree removals at several parks across the state. By the fall of 2019, trail projects were completed at Cliffs of the Neuse, Jones Lake, Eno River, Hanging Rock, and New River state parks and at Mount Jefferson State Natural Area.

Through analysis of the strengths and challenges identified during the fall trail work in 2019, we developed a strategy to better utilize the assets of each program. Several parks were identified in which the partnership could tackle more advanced trail projects by combining the technical expertise and guidance of the trails program staff with the enthusiasm and energy of the CCNC teams. Goals for the next fiscal year include combining mechanized trail equipment work by state park staff and hands-on finishing of the trail surface by the CCNC. This combination should result in maximizing the strengths of each program to increase trail construction efficiency on a superior trail project.

Site visits were held in June of 2020 to discuss logistics for the trail projects planned for the fall of 2020. Sites selected for trail projects include the following state parks: Lake Waccamaw, Cliffs of the Neuse, Raven Rock, Morrow Mountain, Hanging Rock, Crowders Mountain, and Lake James. The next annual trails report will include a detailed account of the work accomplished by the Division's partnership with CCNC.



CCNC group repairing stairs at Cliffs of the Neuse State Park



## 7.0 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The intent of the RTP is to leverage local funds to develop trails and trail-related recreational amenities in an effort to provide low-cost infrastructure and economic development opportunities through natural resource tourism.

From 1999 to 2019, our state has received approximately \$68,272,080 in requests for RTP funding. From those requests, the state has awarded \$36,083,180 to sustainable RTP trail projects statewide. These RTP funds, in combination with in-kind services and matching funds, totaling \$67,002,557 that have been applied to trail and greenway projects for the citizens of North Carolina.

RTP in North Carolina is enabled by the legislation “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (MAP-21), which reauthorized the RTP Program for the 2020 fiscal year. RTP funding comes from the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) through the N.C. Department of Transportation and is administered by the State Trails Program within the NC Division of Parks and Recreation. Since 1993, RTP funding in North Carolina has been used to provide recreational opportunities for hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, paddlers, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) users. Funding through RTP has been able to move forward through continuing resolutions.

Through the NC Trails Program, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation received 44 RTP pre-application requests totaling \$3,800,674 for the 2020 grant year that resulted in 28 final applications totaling \$2,456,457. In North Carolina, a pre-application is required for RTP to help determine the suitability of project requests. The North Carolina Trails Committee (NCTC) recommended awards for 19 grant projects totaling \$1,712,878 to leverage \$409,476 of grantee matching funds to provide economic development and recreational resources to 14 counties with North Carolina. The NCTC also recommended awards for two Safety and Education training programs totaling \$6,000 and leveraged \$1,500 of grantee matching funds. These events will be held in Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania Counties.

## 7.0 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants

**Table 1: 2020 RTP Grant Awards**

Trail Project	Agency	County	Awarded Funds	Primary User Group	Region
Bartram Trail Relocation & Maintenance	USDA Forest Service	Macon	\$45,000	Hiking	Mountains
Broad River Paddle Trail: US-221 Access	Rutherford County Tourism	Rutherford	\$100,000	Canoe / Kayak	Mountains
Brown Mountain OHV Trail 9 Maintenance	USDA Forest Service	Burke/Caldwell	\$100,000	Motorized (OHV / ATV)	Mountains
Brown Mtn OHV Trail 9 Stream Crossing	USDA Forest Service	Burke	\$100,000	Motorized (OHV / ATV)	Mountains
Fonta Flora State Trail - Northwest Gap 2	Burke County	Burke	\$89,400	Multi-Use/ Greenway	Mountains
Fonta Flora State Trail - OVNHT Boardwalk	Burkey County	Burke	\$68,000	Multi-Use/ Greenway	Mountains
Gragg-Marks Mountain Loop Multi-Use Trail Remediation	Trout Unlimited – National Office	Avery	\$100,000	Mountain Biking	Mountains
Peak Mountain Trail	Town of Seven Devils	Avery/Watauga	\$100,000	Hiking	Mountains
Profile Trail: Shanty Springs to Calloway Gap	Division of Parks and Recreation	Avery	\$100,000	Hiking	Mountains
Rocky Knob Park 2020 Trails Renovation Project	Boone Area Cyclists	Watauga	\$100,000	Mountain Biking	Mountains
Badin Lake Motorized Trail and Trailhead Maintenance	USDA Forest Service	Montgomery	\$100,000	Motorized (OHV / ATV)	Piedmont
Colonel Francis Beatty Pump and Flow Trail, Loops 2 and 3	Tarheel Trailblazers	Mecklenburg	\$99,985	Mountain Biking	Piedmont
Deep River Worthville to Central Falls Blueway/Paddleway	Randolph County	Randolph	\$100,000	Canoe / Kayak	Piedmont
Haw River Trail	Town of Oak Ridge	Guildford	\$35,505	Hiking	Piedmont
Lakeview Trail Reroute Construction (Uwharrie National Forest Access Roads Ditch and Culvert Maintenance)	USDA Forest Service	Montgomery	\$100,000	Motorized (OHV / ATV)	Piedmont
Multi-use Trails at Walnut Hill and River Walk	Triangle Land Conservancy	Johnston	\$100,000	Mountain Biking	Piedmont
Hominy Creek Greenway and Water Quality Park	City of Wilson	Wilson	\$99,988	Multi-Use/ Greenway	Coastal
Kinston River Walk Extension	City of Kinston	Lenoir	\$75,000	Hiking	Coastal
Martin County Equine Trails	Martin County	Martin	\$100,000	Equestrian	Coastal